



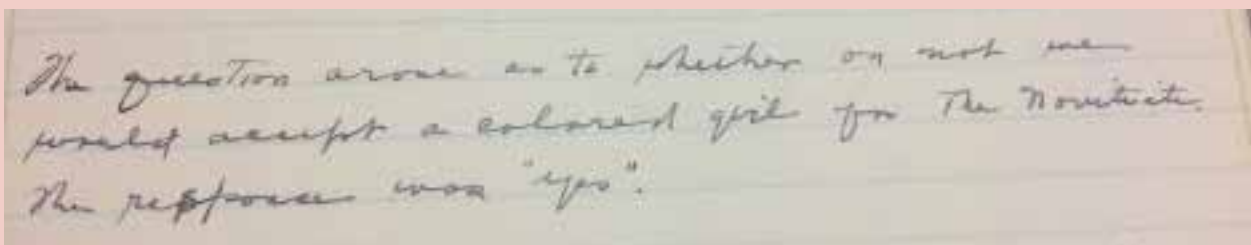
# JUST Love

DECEMBER 2020



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND  
ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

At our October webinar on *Racism in Religious Life*, presenter Dr. Shannen Dee Williams shared some appalling stories of what African American women suffered in their attempts to follow their call to religious life. One community thought the religious habit would be “sullied and profaned” by contact with a black body. Another accepted African American novices but trained them in a separate novitiate from white novices. And there is of course the shameful history of communities like the Sisters of Loretto, the Religious of the Sacred Heart, and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth who owned slaves and traded in human lives. Well into the 1960’s many communities would not accept an African American candidate. Thanks to some sleuthing by Congregation Archivist Sr. Noreen Neary, we found the first reference to the question in the Sisters of Charity Archives in the minutes of the meeting of Mother Mary Benita Kane and her Council on February 1951. Unfortunately, the minutes record nothing of what was doubtless an interesting discussion. While the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth have our own history of racism to atone for, it’s gratifying to see that our response to that question raised in the 1950’s was “yes.”



## Make your holiday gift giving green!

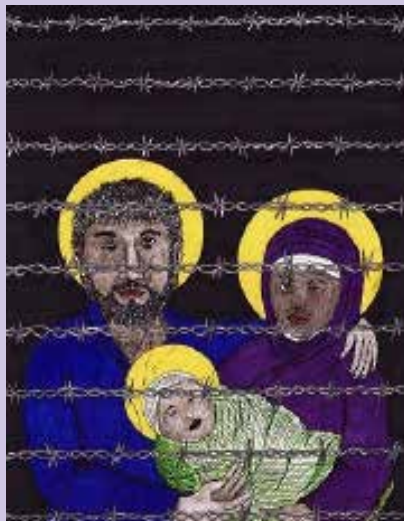
### Top Green Christmas Gifts for Teens and Adults

<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/green-products/top-green-gifts-teens-adults>

17 Best Eco-Friendly & Sustainable Gift Ideas (on Every Budget) <https://www.moneycrashers.com/best-eco-friendly-sustainable-gift-ideas/>

Sustainable Gift Ideas <https://smallfootprintsbigadventures.com/sustainableliving/sustainable-gift-ideas-ethical-fair-trade-recycled-upcycled-green-zero-waste-eco-friendly/>

## Images and Ideas for your Advent/Christmas Reflection



David Hayward

“Jesus did not just come to help immigrants and refugees; he came as a refugee. Jesus is the most incredible act of divine solidarity the world has ever known.” Shane Claiborne

“Our advent hope calls on us to write, with our lives, a new history, the history of lives lived in justice and peace.” Elizabeth McAlister



Brian Kavanaugh



### JPIC Dates to Commemorate in December

#### 2 Martyrdom of the 4 Churchwomen of El Salvador

“I hope that you come to find that which gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living for – maybe even worth dying for, something that energizes you, enthuses you, enables you to keep moving ahead.”

Letter of Ita Ford, MM to her niece

#### 3 Feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of Mother Xavier Mehegan

#### 4 Feast of St. Nicholas/ Death of Philip Berrigan

(+2002) “Nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth; to mine for them, manufacture them, deploy them, use them, is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself.”

**8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** On this day the Sisters of Charity renew their vows. What commitment do you want to renew today? How will you spend your “one wild and precious life?”

Mary Oliver

**10 Death of Thomas Merton (1968)** “What is the use of postmarking our mail with exhortations to ‘pray for peace’ and the spending billions of dollars on atomic

submarines, thermonuclear weapons, and ballistic missiles? This, I would think, would certainly be what the New Testament calls ‘mocking God’ – and mocking Him far more effectively than the atheists do.”

**12 Our Lady of Guadalupe** “Out of the chaos of the moment, a new people would emerge through the process of mestizaje, the mixing of people, biologically, culturally and religiously. In the midst of chaos, darkness and suffering, the Word became our flesh and dwelt among us through the appearance of the Mestiza Virgen of Guadalupe.” Virgilio Elizondo

**14 Anniversary of the Sandy Hook School shooting (2012)** There have 2,049 mass shootings in the USA since Sandy Hook.

**25 Christmas Day** “The dramatic exodus of refugees is... an experience that Jesus Christ himself went through together with his parents.” Pope Francis

**26- 1/1 Kwanza** “O come all you faithful, rejoicing and victorious, Come, let us embrace the mystery in the spirit of life, as we celebrate the goodness of Kwanzaa and the African American heritage. Bless and keep us in solidarity one to another.” Addae Ama Kraba